**Fourteenth Loksabha**

**Session : 10**
**Date : 20-03-2007**

**Participants : Rathod Shri Harisingh Nasaru**

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Title: Need to amend the Constitution with a view to provide reservation to denotified Tribes (VJNT) in Maharashtra.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (YAVATMAL): In Maharashtra Denotified Tribes (VJNT) were given benefit of reservations in recruitment and promotion in service since 1974. Recently Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has passed an order in Nagraj's Case and made it clear that Article 16( 4A) only applies to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and it has no application so far as VJNT and special backward category are concerned. In this order Hon'ble Court has also said that Maharashtra Government has not placed enough record to show the exact figure of VJNT in the State. Due to this more than 2.5 crores VJNTs are disturbed as the benefit of reservation which they were getting in Maharashtra State Government Service has been stayed by the Hon'ble Court. In this connection, I would like to mention that Government has constituted Denotified Tribes Commission to look into the different aspects of VJNTs and submit a report to the Government for consideration. If the said Commission submits an interim report to the Government then the exact status of VJNTs can come to the knowledge of the Government. It is the time now to amend the Constitution as it was done earlier to provide reservations to SC/ST candidates. I urge upon the Government to direct the Denotified Tribes Commission to submit an interim report and after going through that report Government should bring an Amendment to the Constitution to provide reservations to be VJNT on the line of SC/STs.